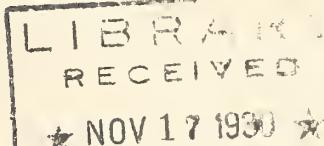


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OCTOBER WEATHER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered through WRC and 38 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, November 5, 1930.

How do you do, friends. Concerning October weather we may say that temperature conditions, in general, did not differ materially from those usually experienced in this month. Most of the first half was unusually warm for the season, but the latter part was generally cold over the eastern part of the country; this made the monthly average not far from normal, though there was a rather general tendency to 1° to 3° subnormal. Summarizing the country, as a whole, so far this year, and with reference to departures from normal temperature, January was cold, February unusually warm, March mostly moderately cool, April warm, May and June not far from normal, July, August, and September warm, and October moderately cool.

October is the month that usually brings the first killing frost of fall to a large part of the country. Frost usually occurs before the first of that month in the more northern States, and by November 1, as a rule, it extends as far south as the northern portions of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, but west of the Mississippi River its southward progress lags behind the east to a material extent. October this year was quite normal with respect to the first killing frost. About the close of the month, and during the first day or two of November, freezing temperatures in the East extended southward to the middle of the east Gulf States, and there were local reports of freezing in some exposed places as far south as extreme northern Florida. West of the Mississippi River freezing did not extend so far south, reaching only north-central Arkansas and northern Oklahoma. Frost this fall caused more or less harm to late gardens and truck in many sections of the country, but there was no widespread or important damage to staple crops as these had mostly matured before the frost came. The most notable injury by the early freezes occurred to undug potatoes in a good many places from the Lake region westward to the Rocky Mountains. There is no known place on the mainland of our country where killing frost does not occur, at least occasionally. Parts of extreme southern Florida, extreme southeastern Louisiana, southern Texas, and locally in southern Arizona and California it does not occur every year; that is some winters have killing frost, while others do not.

This year, in view of the long and severe summer drought, the rainfall of October was of more than passing interest. Our reports show that amounts during the month were mostly abundant rather generally between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains; in fact, over a wide belt, extending from southern North Dakota southward over most of the States of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, there was much more than the normal amount, with many sections having more than twice the usual October falls, and locally running up to as much as six times the normal. Also in the east Gulf States and along the north Atlantic coast most places had monthly totals above normal. The amounts were again scanty, however, in most of the Lake region, the Ohio Valley,

Over

the interior of the Northeast, and especially in the middle Atlantic area. From Indiana and Kentucky eastward to the Atlantic Ocean preliminary reports show general deficiencies for the month ranging from 50 to 90 per cent, that is, some stations reported only 10 per cent of the normal rainfall.

The Middle Atlantic States, especially Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia, have had a remarkable persistence of severely droughty conditions. In these States rainfall has been below normal every month since last December, with the last four months, from July to October, inclusive, extremely dry. The severity of the drought is shown by the fact that, for these four months, Baltimore had only 15 per cent of normal rainfall; Lynchburg, Va., 20 per cent, and Washington 27 per cent, while West Virginia, and also Pennsylvania, had in many places less than half the normal. In the Ohio Valley during this four months period rainfall was mostly only about a third to half the normal amount.

At the present time soil moisture is generally ample between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains, though rain is needed locally principally in eastern Nebraska and southeastern New Mexico. In the Ohio Valley and Lake region recent light rains have been sufficient in most places to keep the top soil moist enough for the germination and growth of winter grains, but the subsoil is dry, and in some places surface moisture is needed. The shortage of water is still a serious problem in many places of the area, especially in southern Ohio and Kentucky, and much hauling for stock and domestic uses is necessary on upland farms. Generous rains in the last few days have been very helpful in the south Atlantic area, and the soil is now in fairly good shape from Florida northward to North Carolina, and even in considerable portions of Virginia the top soil moisture is sufficient for present needs. Rain is still needed generally in the Middle and the interior of the North Atlantic States, and Pacific coast sections.